

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 40-54 are pending in the application, of which claims 42-54 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 41 and 41 were rejected.

Claim 40 have been amended. The amendments do not introduce new matter.

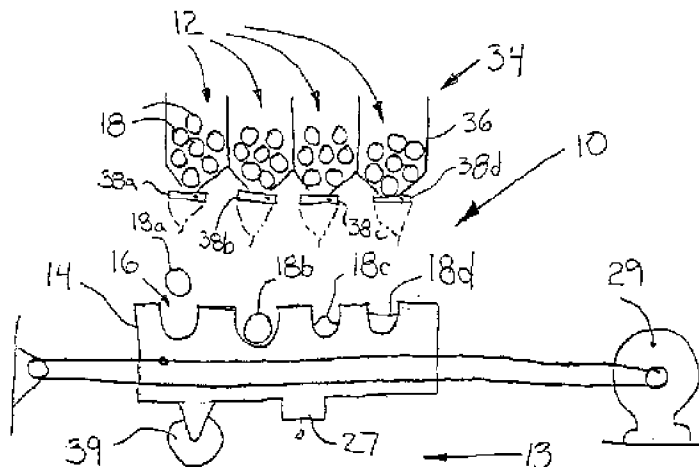
CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Varnon et al. (US 2003/0063138) (herein after "Varnon").

Applicants respectfully assert that Varnon does not teach all the features of amended independent claim 40 and therefore cannot anticipate the claim and the claims dependent thereon.

Varnon discloses a new quantized feed system having queue stations generally shown by numeral 10 in Fig. 2, a copy of which is reproduced below.



As disclosed by Varnon, at par. [0041], the new build material feed system 10 eliminates the need for a remote reservoir (numeral 25 of Fig. 1), an umbilical connecting the reservoir to the responsive device (numeral 51 of Fig. 1) and the heater elements (numeral 49 of Fig. 1).

Claim 40 was amended to include, *inter alia*, "two or more replaceable cartridge apparatuses, connectable via tubes to the one or more printing heads, to store building materials in a closed container". Applicants respectfully submit that Varnon teaches away from amended claim 40. Support for this amendment can be found, at least, at paragraphs [0004], [0006] and Figure 1.

As disclosed in Fig. 2 of Varnon, numerals 38A through 38D are dispensing actuators, which deliver "in a drop-in-load manner" discrete amounts of build materials "to hoppers 16 located on the dispensing device" (see pars. [0042] and [0049]). These hoppers are not configured to store the building material. They are configured to temporarily hold the build material during the printing process.

Accordingly, Varnon does not teach or remotely suggest, at least, "two or more replaceable cartridge apparatuses storing building materials in a closed container and connectable via tubes to the one or more printing heads, the cartridge apparatuses providing building materials to said one or more printing heads to print said three-dimensional object and further "two or more sensors that determine the status of building materials in said cartridge apparatuses; and a controller that receives data from said sensors and controls switching of building material supply from one cartridge to another", as recited by amended claim 40.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that amended independent claim 40 is allowable. Each of claims 41-54 depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 40 and therefore includes all the limitations of the claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 41-54 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of claims 40-41 and that claims 42 – 54 will be rejoined and allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants assert that the pending claims are allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

APPLICANT(S): MENCHIK, Guy et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/534,615
FILED: December 14, 2005
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Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zeev Pearl', written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: September 9, 2009

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